

What is claimed is:

1 1. A remote control device that controls any of a plurality
2 of apparatuses by transmitting a remote control signal for
3 controlling a target apparatus in response to a user operation,
4 comprising:

5 a self-position detecting unit operable to detect a
6 position of the remote control device and generate self-position
7 information indicating the position;

8 an apparatus specifying unit operable to specify one of
9 the apparatuses as the target apparatus, based on the generated
10 self-position information and a predetermined criterion;

11 a control operation detecting unit operable to detect a
12 user operation; and

13 a transmitting unit operable to transmit a remote control
14 signal corresponding to the detected user operation.

1 2. A remote control device according to Claim 1, further
2 comprising:

3 an apparatus position obtaining unit operable to obtain
4 apparatus position information indicating positions of the
5 apparatuses, wherein

6 the apparatus specifying unit specifies one of the
7 apparatuses as the target apparatus based on the obtained
8 apparatus position information, and

9 the predetermined criterion is a positional relation
10 between the remote control device and each of the apparatuses.

1 3. A remote control device according to Claim 2, wherein
2 the apparatus specifying unit specifies one of the
3 apparatuses as the target apparatus based on a distance between
4 the remote control device and each of the apparatuses, the
5 distance being calculated by referring to the obtained apparatus
6 position information and the generated self-position
7 information.

1 4. A remote control device according to Claim 3, wherein
2 the apparatus specifying unit specifies, as the target
3 apparatus, an apparatus that is closest in distance to the remote
4 control device out of the apparatuses.

1 5. A remote control device according to Claim 4, further
2 comprising:
3 a switch operation detecting unit operable to detect a
4 user operation for switching the target apparatus, wherein
5 when the switch operation detecting unit detects the user
6 operation for switching the target apparatus after at least one
7 of the apparatuses has already been specified, the apparatus
8 specifying unit newly specifies, as the target apparatus, an
9 apparatus that is next closest in distance to the remote control
10 device with respect to a last specified apparatus, and
11 the remote control signal transmitted from the
12 transmitting unit is for controlling the newly specified
13 apparatus and corresponding to the user operation detected by
14 the controlling operation detecting unit.

1 6. A remote control device according to Claim 5, further
2 comprising:

3 an apparatus information obtaining unit operable to obtain
4 apparatus information corresponding to an apparatus specified
5 as the target apparatus by the apparatus specifying unit; and
6 an image displaying unit operable to display an image,
7 every time the apparatus specifying unit newly specifies one
8 of the apparatuses, based on the apparatus information
9 corresponding to the newly specified apparatus.

1 7. A remote control device according to Claim 6, wherein
2 the apparatus information obtaining unit makes a request
3 to the apparatus for the apparatus information of the apparatus
4 and obtains the apparatus information from the apparatus by
5 communicating with the apparatus specified by the apparatus
6 specifying unit; and

7 the transmitting unit transmits a remote control signal
8 determined based on the obtained apparatus information
9 corresponding to the newly specified apparatus, the remote
10 control signal corresponding to the operation detected by the
11 control operation detecting unit.

1 8. A remote control device according to Claim 5, wherein
2 the switch operation detecting unit detects the user
3 operation for switching the target apparatus by sensing a
4 vibration stronger than a predetermined intensity.

1 9. A remote control device according to Claim 3, wherein
2 the self-position information also indicates a facing
3 direction of the remote control device, the facing direction
4 corresponding to a direction in which the transmitting unit
5 transmits the remote control signals mainly, and
6 the apparatus specifying unit specifies, as the target
7 apparatus, an apparatus that is closest in distance to the remote
8 control device out of the apparatuses positioned in an area within
9 a predetermined angle in the facing direction of the remote
10 control device.

1 10. A remote control device according to Claim 3 further
2 comprising:
3 a record storing unit operable to store an operation
4 history of an apparatus specified as the target apparatus by
5 the apparatus specifying unit, when the control operation
6 detecting unit detects the user operation, wherein
7 according to the operation history stored in the record
8 storing unit, the apparatus specifying unit specifies, as the
9 target apparatus, one of the apparatuses whose distance to the
10 remote control device is closer than a predetermined distance.

1 11. A remote control device according to Claim 3 further
2 comprising:
3 a time unit for keeping time, wherein
4 according to the time indicated by the time unit, the
5 apparatus specifying unit specifies, as the target apparatus,

6 one of the apparatuses whose distance to the remote control device
7 is closer than a predetermined distance.

1 12. A remote control device according to Claim 2, wherein
2 the apparatus position obtaining unit obtains the
3 apparatus position information by receiving position
4 information from each of the apparatuses, the position
5 information indicating the position of the each of the
6 apparatuses, the apparatus position information being a
7 collection of the position information.

1 13. A remote control device according to Claim 1 further
2 comprising:
3 an apparatus information obtaining unit operable to obtain
4 operation information corresponding to an apparatus specified
5 as the target apparatus by the apparatus specifying unit; and
6 a display unit operable to display an image based on the
7 operation information.

1 14. A remote control device according to Claim 1, wherein
2 the self-position obtaining unit generates the
3 self-position information by calculating the position of the
4 remote control device using a GPS function in which radiowaves
5 from GPS satellites are utilized.

1 15. A computer program that enables a remote control device
2 to execute a remote control operation for transmitting a remote

3 control signal corresponding to any of a plurality of apparatuses,
4 the remote control operation comprising:
5 a self-position detecting step for detecting a position
6 of the remote control device and generate self-position
7 information indicating the position;
8 an apparatus specifying step for specifying one of the
9 apparatuses as the target apparatus, based on the generated
10 self-position information and a predetermined criterion;
11 a control operation detecting step for detecting a user
12 operation; and
13 a transmitting step for transmitting a remote control
14 signal corresponding to the detected user operation.